

Introduced by Senators Murray and Burton

August 23, 2004

Senate Resolution No. 43—Relative to intercollegiate athletics.

1 WHEREAS, There are over 17,000 students at 45 institutions
2 of higher learning in the State of California who participate in a
3 sport sanctioned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association
4 (NCAA); and

5 WHEREAS, The athletic departments of these institutions
6 generate a minimum of \$327,000,000 in revenue per year from
7 ticket sales, alumni and booster contributions, sponsorships,
8 television and radio contracts, student fees, and international
9 support; and

10 WHEREAS, The NCAA earns over \$545,000,000 per year
11 from its 11-year, \$6,000,000,000 television contract to broadcast
12 the Division I basketball national championship tournament; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition, the NCAA earned over \$89,000,000
14 from its television contract to broadcast the Division I-A Bowl
15 Championship Series (BCS) games in 2004; and

16 WHEREAS, The NCAA has an annual operating budget of over
17 \$400,000,000; and

18 WHEREAS, The seven California universities that have
19 Division I-A football programs and Division I basketball
20 programs generate an additional \$106,000,000 in annual revenue
21 from ticket sales, television ads, endorsement deals, and alumni
22 contributions; and

23 WHEREAS, Because there are approximately 19,000 Division
24 I-A football and Division I basketball players in the nation, each
25 player generates a minimum of \$33,000 per year in championship

1 television revenue alone. This does not include the revenue
2 generated from regular season games and other sources; and

3 WHEREAS, Student athletes are restricted in their ability to
4 earn outside income that has nothing to do with their collegiate
5 sport or athletics in general; and

6 WHEREAS, Strict limitations on gifting have resulted in
7 students being penalized for accepting groceries, making
8 telephone calls home, and attending funerals; and

9 WHEREAS, Fifty-two percent of NCAA football players and
10 61 percent of NCAA men's basketball players are
11 African-American, compared with 12.5 percent for the general
12 United States population, and excess revenues from these two
13 sports are used to fund and subsidize other sports and programs;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The NCAA does not have an independent national
16 student-athlete advocacy organization; and

17 WHEREAS, Legislative hearings have shown that most
18 students from the revenue-generating sports are not even aware of
19 the NCAA Student Advisory Council, which is not independent,
20 but is sponsored, funded, subsidized, and directed by the NCAA
21 administration; and

22 WHEREAS, Student athletes who play football and basketball
23 are not allowed to transfer schools without facing a penalty and
24 loss of eligibility, and this penalty does not apply to coaches or
25 student athletes of nonrevenue-generating sports; and

26 WHEREAS, NCAA bylaws prohibit member institutions from
27 guaranteeing athletic scholarships for more than one academic
28 year; and

29 WHEREAS, Many NCAA policies appear to be designed to
30 serve the interests of that organization and its member institutions,
31 rather than those of the student athlete; and

32 WHEREAS, Students in other fields, such as drama, music,
33 science, and literature, are not faced with the restrictions placed on
34 the student athlete; and

35 WHEREAS, Although student athletes help to generate
36 millions of dollars in revenue, they have, until recently, been
37 restricted from receiving scholarships that cover their full cost of
38 attendance and from receiving year-round health care insurance
39 because of NCAA bylaws; now, therefore, be it



1 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That every
2 student attending an institution of higher education in this state
3 should have the same rights and benefits, regardless of his or her
4 athletic status; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That institutions of higher education in California
6 should be allowed to offer year-round health care coverage to
7 every student athlete; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the NCAA should act to increase student athletic
9 scholarships to the full cost of attendance, and at a minimum, allow
10 its member institutions to offer scholarships equal to those offered
11 to students who are not athletes; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the NCAA should allow student athletes to earn
13 income through bona fide employment that is not associated with
14 their sport; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the NCAA should allow student athletes to
16 consult and obtain licensed advice and representation when
17 making career choices; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the NCAA should allow student athletes to
19 transfer to another institution of higher learning if a head coach
20 leaves the school of attendance or anticipated attendance, or if the
21 school becomes subject to NCAA sanctions that were earned by a
22 previous class; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the NCAA should ensure that no institution of
24 higher learning that maintains an intercollegiate athletics program
25 may impose, or submit to the imposition of, a penalty or other
26 sanction on a student athlete for a violation of a rule or code of
27 conduct of an intercollegiate athletics association that was not
28 committed by that student athlete, including, but not necessarily
29 limited to, the cancellation or forfeiture of an athletic event or a
30 prohibition on transfers; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
32 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.
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